Organisation, Palam, New Delhi about alleged irregularities, malpractices and corruption in Rajen Babu T.B. Hospital, G.T.B. Nagar, Delhi ;

(b) whether any Member of Parliament had represented the matter to the Minister ;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in Nav Bharat Times, New Delhi dated 1st April, 1992 under the caption "No Medicines in T.B. Hospital" ;

(d) if so, reaction of Government thereto ; and

(e) what steps are being taken to set right the things in Rajen Babu T.B. Hospital ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Detailed information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Old Data on Nutritional Status

857. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the NIN, Hyderabad continues to use old data on nutritional status of various regions as in the November, 1991 issue of their Nutrition News released in April, 1992 which appears to have very little relevance to the ground realities; and

(b) whether Government would streamline our R and D structure and ensure that they take up meaningful need based projects and timely publication including regular DD programmes for mass communication of upto date research oh the lines of BBC programmes etc. ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. The old datas used by the National Institute of Nutrition-(NIN), Hyderabad in the November, 1991 issue of Nutrition News, were for comparison of growth status of Nicobarese to their rural counterparts on the mainland.

(b) The Research and Development (R&D) activities in the Institutes under the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) are undertaken with the guidance of the Scientific Advisory Committees and the Scientific Advisory Groups. The NIN has co-ordination with Programme Advisory Committee for Family Welfare Programme of the All India Radio, Hyderabad and Door Darshan Kendra, Hyderabad for broadcasts and telecasts on nutrition and health topics. The Institute also brings out publications like Nutrition (English), Postan (Hindi), Poshana (Telugu) and Nutrition news regularly.

Use of Green Algae

858. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the NIN, Hyderabad is now advocating use of blue green algae Spirulina as a source of vitamin 'A';

(b) whether as per NIN it would be difficult to administer more than 162 grams of this product in food daily and if so. whether NIN would use and recommend compressed tablets as in case of yeast etc. ; and

(c) whether this new vitamin 'A' product has been tested and or used anywhere else in the world and if so, whether it would be faster and cheaper to import such technology rather wait for our archaic and slow moving R and D infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) Studies conducted by the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), Hyderabad, in rats and children have indicnted that freshly harvested spray-dried Spirulina is a good source of Vitamin 'A'.